

Camberwell Conservation Study 1991

BUILDING CITATION

House, 31 Canterbury Road



Study Grading: A
Construction Date: 1909
First Owner: Parsons, Herbert F
Architect: Ussher & Kemp

History

Herbert F. Parsons, of Parsons Brothers & Co., spice merchants, commissioned architects, Ussher & Kemp to design this house in 1909¹. The house was complete by the end of that year. Parsons remained there until well into the 1930's².

Description

With its broad, half-timbered and gabled main roof form and the skirt-like flared hip covering the verandah, this house approaches more than most Ussher & Kemp designs, the Far Eastern tea house prototype, so appropriate for this owner. Offsetting this tea-house symmetry is the gabled room bay, at the front elevation which terminates the slatted return verandah. A long verandah section opens onto the adjoining tennis court, whilst the section facing the front surveys a lawn and mature trees from the period. An extensive half-timbered gable juts out to the east, dormers in the rear roof look to the north and a single-storey verandahed service wing extends out towards a sympathetically designed garage. Mature trees at the front and side and a Cordyline at the rear are supportive of the period as are paint colours to the house.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

69, BROADWAY, 1900-1
20, BRYSON STREET, 1900
608, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1900
1, SALISBURY STREET, 1900
5, VICTORIA ROAD, 1900
11, LUENA ROAD, 1900c
42, BRYSON STREET, 1901
58, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1901
6, KINTORE STREET, 1901
23, ROYAL CRESCENT, 1901
35, BROADWAY, 1902
39, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1902
169, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1903-4
6, LOGAN STREET, 1903
142, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1904
7, MANGARRA ROAD, 1905-6
24, CHAUCER CRESCENT, 1905
633, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1906-8
27, BALWYN ROAD, 1906
58, BROADWAY, 1906
65, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1906
73-75, BROADWAY, 1907
31, CHAUCER CRESCENT, 1907
17, THREADNEEDLE STREET, 1907
18, PEPPIN STREET, 1907c
138, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1908-9
41, INGLEBY ROAD, 1908-9
10, SEFTON PLACE, 1908
41, INGLEBY ROAD, 1909-10
71, BROADWAY, 1909
73, BROADWAY, 1909
206, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1909
22, VICTORIA ROAD, 1909

External Integrity

The fence has been replaced, steel windows fitted to the eastern gable and a window wall to a minor wing of the south elevation.

Streetscape

Masked by the mature garden and high fence, the main impact of the house is to the east (due to the skewed site placement) where its neighbours are of mixed period, mainly 20th century. In theory it relates to the opposing corners, a Bungalow (60) and the Queen Anne flavoured design at 58 (q.v.) also the houses adjoining on the west (numbers 29 and 27).

¹ MMBW DPA 67187; WD 1899-1900
² D1935

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BUILDING CITATION (Continued)

Significance

Architecture, a successful and intact design from the masters of the American born Queen Anne villa style (Ussher & Kemp) which, on its corner site, is well disposed for viewing the four elevations of its design and complementary to nearby individually notable and near contemporary houses: of state importance.

History, the owner represents the mainstream of the study area's Edwardian influx by his occupation and choice of house style: of local importance.
